

Pending Claims

1. A method of assaying a test compound for an effect on hypertension parameters, said method comprising:
 - (a) providing a non-human mammal whose genome comprises a functionally variant $\alpha 1$ Na,K-ATPase hypertension susceptibility gene;
 - (b) administering said test compound to said non-human mammal; and
 - (c) determining whether the test compound affects hypertension parameters in said non-human mammal relative to hypertension parameters in a non-human mammal whose genome comprises a wild type $\alpha 1$ Na,K-ATPase gene.
2. The method of claim 1, wherein said functionally variant $\alpha 1$ Na,K-ATPase hypertension susceptibility gene is set forth in SEQ ID NO:3
3. The method of claim 1, wherein said wild type $\alpha 1$ Na,K-ATPase gene is set forth in SEQ ID NO:1
4. The method of claim 1, wherein said non-human mammal is a Dahl Salt-sensitive^{HSD} rat.
5. The method of claim 1, wherein said hypertension parameters are blood pressure, life span, or renal pathology.